

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum – Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

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| Date and time of meeting: | 24 th February 2021, 6.00pm – 7.15pm |
| Location: | Zoom online meeting |
| Attending: | <p>Committee: Madeleine Jennings (MJ) – Chair; Sandra White (SW) Vice-chair; Paul Anders – Treasurer (PA); Colin George (CG); Margaret Cox(MC) and Nouh Abukar(NA) Ilaria Esposito – Coordinator (IE)</p> <p>Guests: Anna Doyle (Town Centre Manager), Anita Whittaker (<i>In the making</i> local community Coordinator) Glenys Ruan (Census Community Advisor: Brent & Camden, The Office for National Statistics) Nazra Zuhyle (Project Support Officer - Brent CLT) Tatiana Los (Brent Mutual Aid food growing Project)</p> <p>Other attendees: 30 HNF members Councillors Matt Kelcher and Mili Patel</p> |
| Absent: | Martin Page (Principal Landscape Architect – Brent Council) – software conflict problems |

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| 1 | <p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IE welcomed all attendees and explained the rules for the meeting happening online • MJ welcomed everyone and introduced herself as Chair • IE went through the agenda of the meeting. • MJ introduced minutes of them going through the actions and updating members. • The December 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted. | |
| 2 | <p><u>HNF updates:</u> Madeleine Jennings – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MJ explained that HNF was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 11th March 2020 and revisited the role of HNF, purpose, and trustees' function (see slides attached for more details). HNF Committee has been meeting regularly fortnightly since March 2020 and recruited a new Coordinator, Ilaria Esposito, in July. • MJ emphasised the importance of partnership with other local organisations to make Harlesden a better place. The more people | |

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| | <p>work across different issues, the more we can achieve results for Harlesden. We are keen to involve as many partners as possible across every Neighbourhood Plan (NP) strand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MJ provided an update on relationships with the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and LB Brent, two of the forum area's planning authorities. One of HNF's roles is influencing local decision-makers and engaging stakeholders and statutory bodies. MJ emphasised that the HNF wants to make planning relevant, make planning real and make a difference. • MJ gave an overview of her portfolio: • Membership growth - reporting that since December 2020, the membership is growing. • Reintroduce the HNF Ambassadors Program for those members who have the expertise, passion, and knowledge of different topics that fall under the Neighbourhood Plan. MJ explained that we have now 3 Ambassadors recruited respectively on culture, clean air, and environment. This is another way to support the Forum. • Wayfinding. MJ updated the launch of the second year of the Harlesden Wayfinding and the poll to choose a new theme. MJ invited members to stay tuned and wait for the newsletter launching several activities related to the project. • Redesignation: 23rd February 2021 OPDC Planning Committee unanimously agreed to recommend OPDC Board to re-designate the Forum. The Board is meeting on 4th March to ratify formal designation. Councillor Matt Kelcher is on the OPDC planning committee and spoke in favour of redesigning unanimously. • Trustee recruitment: MJ invited those members who fill they have time to invest in the development of HNF to apply as trustee. • Website Revamp: MJ shared improvements made on the website, including the blog, HNF policies, HNF meetings minutes. | |
| | <p>Planning & Regeneration - Colin George</p> <p>As a neighbourhood planning forum, we aim to review every application. The Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document, so monitoring developments in our area is an ongoing task. When writing our Plan, it had to comply with national and local (Brent & OPDC) planning policy, so most of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) applications will be subject to comparable rules. A new scrutiny process is now in place. The trustees can discuss exceptional cases and ask the membership for their opinions if considered necessary or contentious.</p> <p>CG reported that since last year we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screened around 120 planning applications where we have commented, responded, objected. • A plan for 2021 to develop closer relations with Brent and OPDC planners. • Screened and commented on Licensing applications. CG explained that we have raised objections to grant a license to the planned Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) based on the Neighbourhood Plan Policies in Park Parade and will do in the case of Station road against 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan policies. • Trying to get Licensing applications forwarded directly to the HNF accounts. <p>CG presented a draft proposal on how members can get involved in responding to planning applications and licensing.</p> | <p>Mili Patel is going to look into the problem HNF is not receiving Licensing application directly</p> |

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| <p>Clean Air & Environment – Margaret Cox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC reported on several aspects of her portfolios, mainly on clean air, nature and green spaces: • Representing HNF as part of the Brent Climate Change Strategy Planning group • Working with Brent to address the HGV problem • Improving Harlesden's re-cycling with Veolia's community fund • Started the year with a re-wilding plan. Harlesden has the least amount of green space in Brent. Plan: Build mini-gardens at cul-de-sacs around Harlesden, including Leghorn Road, Ranelagh Road and Burns Road. Make Leghorn Road a community-led memorial garden to remember our neighbours lost to COVID-19 • Promote community gardening on the HNF website. Support Brent Mutual Aid Community Food Growing Project. Help with site finding <p>Comments: Anna Doyle mentioned that she is happy to connect and book a meeting to discuss green spaces. Looking at maintenance is key. This could link to skills drive locally too. Councillor Mili Patel supported mentioning that funding is available for this kind of initiatives.</p> <p>Q1: Do we know when the community garden in Challenge Close will be open again, as it is currently used for Covid testing? Response: Harlesden Town Garden is open for members access, but the playground is currently closed until further notice</p> <p>General enquiry around Bramshill open space: it used to have a MUGA - multi-purpose sports area. Some members are reluctant to see more fences there to grow food. There is a request for an outside gym in the space where the trees and Renette have enhanced in so many ways. Councillor Mili Patel has been involved in the conversation around Bramshill open space and wants to support planning and possibly funding around the idea. Anna Doyle is keen to help.</p> | <p>Margaret Cox will follow up with relevant bodies</p> |
| <p>Tatiana Los from Brent Mutual Aid Food Growing Project</p> <p>It is a project started by residents to support the community during the pandemic. The main goal is to develop and run community food-growing spaces in collaboration with residents, charities, and Brent Council to make fresh, organically grown fruit and vegetables more accessible to the wider community and nurture food-growing knowledge and skills among community members, as well as promote wellbeing. Current Sites: Harlesden Town Gardens, Longstone Avenue allotment</p> <p>HNF is engaging to help the group get more front or community gardens for this purpose.</p> | |
| <p>Glenys Ruan - Census Community Advisor Brent & Camden - The Office for National Statistics</p> <p>Presented her work on behalf of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to help deliver the census in March 2021 and involve different communities in Harlesden.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data the census collects helps the government, charities, and Brent Council plan services like schools, doctors' surgeries and libraries to benefit local communities. It's crucial we get communities counted in Brent to ensure there will be services tailored to them. • Her work is centred on building relationships and engaging with local communities to ensure everyone can participate in the census and be counted. She is seeking to work with local community organisations that have links into the Caribbean community in Brent to get the message out to as many people as possible that the census is coming and ensure that people have the information they need to | |

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| | <p>participate counted. Every month, a copy of the Community Engagement leaflet is shared through HNF Newsletter, giving more details on this and a general information postcard that introduces the census. Through the Forum, she has also promoted employment opportunities to work on the 2021 Census as Field Officers.</p> <p>ONS is working within the restrictions that the COVID-19 situation has placed on all of us and therefore looking at ways to connect with local groups and organisations safely at this time.</p> <p>Glenys shared her contact details with the members.</p> <p>Q1: Harlesden has one of the highest digital poverty rates in the UK. Will Harlesden residents need to request the paper version, or will they be sent this?</p> <p>Q2: Will census information be in multiple languages?</p> <p>Response: Glenys said that they did not have the detail, but specific areas will automatically be issued with paper forms. Still, she will ask that question and get the response back to us. The main questionnaire will be in EN, but she will get info on translation services available or support.</p> <p>Comment from a member: Digital inclusion projects are cropping up but. I don't know how systematically.</p> | |
| | <p>Anna Doyle – town centre manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HNF is part of the cultural consortia created under the Harlesden High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) • Anna Doyle gave more information on the plans for the near future and support for the residents and businesses. • HAZ includes a mix of funding from funds raised vial local development (known as NCIL) and Historic England. The HAZ aims to create an attractive gateway to Harlesden town centre and support the local economy, traders, and entrepreneurs and offer local people high-quality community spaces to come together and maintain their sense of local identity. • The cultural consortia applied for a grant to offer cultural activities and turn Harlesden town centre into a canvas of mixed cultural activities. • Mentioned the Gateway Harlesden cultural programme, which includes artistic installations by the bridge near Willesden Junction Station. • <p>Q1: Can you give an example of some of the buildings in the scheme?</p> <p>Response: There is an opportunity to improve beautiful historic buildings to benefit residents, business owners, and visitors. An exciting project is planned, led by the Refugee Support Network, to transform the disused former HSBC bank into a focus for support for young people, workspace for small businesses, and a meeting place for community groups. The bank is at a focal point in the town centre and will bring this prominent building back to life. Elsewhere, shop fronts will be repaired and restored, with opportunities for apprentices and shopkeepers to learn necessary maintenance skills for their facilities to maintain the sense of pride in the local area.</p> <p>The programme is working with units on the high street within the conservation zone: an aim is for the programme to also inspire other businesses and landlords too, over time, undertake improvements too.</p> <p>Q2: What area does the Heritage Project cover in Harlesden? Does it extend to Craven Park Road?</p> <p>Response: At the border. It stops at Harlesden Library.</p> | <p>Brent business e-news link: https://public.govdelIVERY.com/accounts/UKBRENT/sig-nup/10620</p> <p>details: Anna.doyle@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>links to Funding 2 levels: 4k & 10k - https://www.powertochange.org.uk/get-support/programmes/community-business-reboost-fund/</p> <p>HAZ https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/harlesden/</p> |

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| | <p>Nazra Zuhyle Project Support Officer Brent Community Land Trust Community-led housing in Brent. Brent Community Land Trust (Brent CLT) is a new group of Brent residents who have come together to develop community-led housing in the borough. Brent CLT is looking for interested members of the community who are interested in shaping its future work. Nazra invited the member to contact her to get involved in the community panel.</p> <p>Please see the slides for more information, and please contact Nasra (nasra@communityregen.net)</p> | |
| | <p>Anita Whittaker Local Community Coordinator - Harlesden Canal project</p> <p>Anita guided us through the Canal Project (see slides for more info). The 5-year project aims to create a flagship community hub for residents, businesses, boaters, and visitors. OPDC, in partnership with Brent Council and the Canal & River Trust, is bringing forward exciting improvements to Harlesden Canalside. To deliver the project, OPDC has appointed specialist community and commercial space operators, 3Space and architects, We Made That, and a wider consultant team to work closely with the local community to scope, deliver and operate the space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The link to OPDC's canal placemaking study is here: https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/organisations-we-work/old-oak-and-park-royal-development-corporation-opdc/making/grand-union-canal/grand-union-canal-placemaking • The project website https://harlesdencanalside.co.uk • People will get involved not only in consultation but also in Co-design, Co-commissioning, Co-delivery through Anita Whittaker • Community engagement events will run on 4th, 15th, 18th March Register for the events • Family and children activities are now available | <p>to speak with Anita Whittaker anita@3space.org</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOB and next meeting <p>The next Forum meeting is scheduled for June 2021</p> | |

